

House Study Bill 218

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ARNOLD)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of head lamps or daytime running
2 lights on motor vehicles and making a penalty applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 2749YC 81
5 dea/cf/24

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1 1 Section 1. Section 321.235A, subsection 3, Code 2005, is
2 amended to read as follows:
3 3. A person shall not operate an electric personal
4 assistive mobility device at the times specified in section
5 321.384, subsection 1, unless the person or the electric
6 personal assistive mobility device is equipped with a
7 headlight visible from the front of the electric personal
8 assistive mobility device and at least one red reflector
9 visible from the rear of the electric personal assistive
10 mobility device.
11 Sec. 2. Section 321.384, Code 2005, is amended to read as
12 follows:
13 321.384 WHEN LIGHTED LAMPS REQUIRED.
14 1. a. Every motor vehicle ~~upon operated on~~ a highway
15 ~~within the in this~~ state, at any time from sunset to sunrise,
16 and at such other times when conditions such as fog, snow,
17 sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to render clearly
18 discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance
19 of five hundred feet ahead, shall display lighted head lamps
20 as provided in section 321.415, subject to exceptions with
21 respect to parked vehicles as ~~hereinafter stated~~ provided in
22 section 321.395.
23 2. b. Whenever a requirement is ~~hereinafter~~ declared as
24 to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall
25 render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices
26 shall be visible, ~~said the~~ provisions shall apply during the
27 times stated in this subsection ~~1 of this section upon on~~ a
28 straight level unlighted highway under normal atmospheric
29 conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly
30 stated.
31 2. At all times other than the times stated in subsection
32 1, a motor vehicle operated on a highway in this state shall
33 display lighted head lamps as provided in section 321.415 or
34 lighted daytime running lights. For purposes of this
35 subsection, "daytime running lights" means head lamps that
36 1 turn on automatically when the motor vehicle's ignition is
37 2 started, and are overridden when regular head lamps are
38 3 activated.
39 Sec. 3. Section 321.392, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
40 2005, is amended to read as follows:
41 Every motor truck, and every trailer or semitrailer of over
42 three thousand pounds gross weight, shall be equipped with the
43 following lighting devices and reflectors in addition to other
44 requirements of this chapter, and such devices shall be
45 lighted at the times mentioned in section 321.384, subsection
46 1.
47 Sec. 4. Section 321.394, Code 2005, is amended to read as
48 follows:
49 321.394 LAMP OR FLAG ON PROJECTING LOAD.
50 Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four
51 feet or more beyond the bed or body of ~~such the~~ vehicle, there
52 shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the
53 times specified in section 321.384, subsection 1, a red light

2 19 or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least five
2 20 hundred feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern
2 21 required under this section shall be in addition to the red
2 22 rear light required ~~upon~~ on every vehicle. At any other time
2 23 there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load
2 24 a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen inches square.

2 25 Sec. 5. Section 321.395, Code 2005, is amended to read as
2 26 follows:

2 27 321.395 LAMPS ON PARKED VEHICLES.

2 28 Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or
2 29 shoulder adjacent to the roadway, outside of a business
2 30 district, whether attended or unattended, during the times
2 31 mentioned in section 321.384, ~~such subsection 1, the~~ vehicle
2 32 shall be equipped with one or more lamps which ~~shall~~ exhibit a
2 33 white or amber light on the roadway side visible from a
2 34 distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle and
2 35 a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to
3 1 the rear, except that local authorities may provide by
3 2 ordinance or resolution that no lights need be displayed ~~upon~~
3 3 on any such vehicle when stopped or parked in accordance with
3 4 local parking regulations upon a highway where there is
3 5 sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a
3 6 distance of five hundred feet upon such highway. Any lighted
3 7 head lamps ~~upon~~ on a parked vehicle shall be depressed or
3 8 dimmed.

3 9 Sec. 6. Section 321.397, Code 2005, is amended to read as
3 10 follows:

3 11 321.397 LAMPS ON BICYCLES.

3 12 Every bicycle shall be equipped with a lamp on the front
3 13 exhibiting a white light, at the times specified in section
3 14 321.384, subsection 1, visible from a distance of at least
3 15 three hundred feet to the front and with a lamp on the rear
3 16 exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of three
3 17 hundred feet to the rear, except that a red reflector may be
3 18 used in lieu of a rear light. A peace officer riding a police
3 19 bicycle is not required to use either front or rear lamps if
3 20 duty so requires.

3 21 Sec. 7. Section 321.398, Code 2005, is amended to read as
3 22 follows:

3 23 321.398 LAMPS ON OTHER VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

3 24 All vehicles, including animal-drawn vehicles and including
3 25 those referred to in section 321.383 not ~~hereinbefore~~
3 26 specifically required to be equipped with lamps, shall at the
3 27 times specified in section 321.384, subsection 1, be equipped
3 28 with at least one lighted lamp or lantern exhibiting a white
3 29 light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the
3 30 front of such vehicle and, except for animal-drawn vehicles,
3 31 with a lamp or lantern exhibiting a red light visible from a
3 32 distance of five hundred feet to the rear. Animal-drawn
3 33 vehicles shall be equipped with a flashing amber light visible
3 34 from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear of the
3 35 vehicle during the time specified in section 321.384, subsection 1.

4 1 subsection 1.
4 2 Sec. 8. Section 321.405, Code 2005, is amended to read as
4 3 follows:

4 4 321.405 SELF-ILLUMINATION.

4 5 All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminated
4 6 when in use at the times mentioned in section 321.384, subsection 1.

4 7 subsection 1.
4 8 Sec. 9. Section 321.415, subsection 1, unnumbered
4 9 paragraph 1, Code 2005, is amended to read as follows:

4 10 Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or
4 11 shoulder during the times specified in section 321.384,
4 12 subsection 1, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or
4 13 composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient
4 14 intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in
4 15 advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements
4 16 and limitations:

4 17 Sec. 10. Section 321.418, Code 2005, is amended to read as
4 18 follows:

4 19 321.418 ALTERNATE ROAD-LIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

4 20 Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions
4 21 specified in section 321.384, subsection 1, when equipped with
4 22 two lighted lamps upon the front thereof capable of revealing
4 23 persons and objects seventy-five feet ahead in lieu of lamps
4 24 required in sections 321.409 and 321.415, or section 321.417,
4 25 provided, however, that at no time shall it be operated at a
4 26 speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.

4 27 Sec. 11. Section 321.419, Code 2005, is amended to read as
4 28 follows:

4 29 321.419 NUMBER OF DRIVING LAMPS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED.

4 30 At ~~all times specified in section 321.384~~ at least two
4 31 lighted lamps, except where one only is permitted, shall be
4 32 displayed at all times, one on each side at the front of every
4 33 motor vehicle, except when ~~such the~~ vehicle is parked subject
4 34 to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.

4 35 EXPLANATION

5 1 This bill requires that a motor vehicle operated on a
5 2 highway in this state must display lighted head lamps or
5 3 daytime running lights at all times when lighted head lamps
5 4 are not otherwise required. Under current law, lighted head
5 5 lamps must be displayed at any time from sunset to sunrise and
5 6 at other times when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or
5 7 rain prevent clear visibility at a distance of 500 feet.

5 8 The bill makes corresponding amendments to clarify the
5 9 applicability of the requirement and to specifically exempt
5 10 bicycles, personal assistive mobility devices, and animal=
5 11 drawn vehicles.

5 12 A violation of a mandatory lighting requirement is
5 13 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$20.

5 14 LSB 2749YC 81

5 15 dea:nh/cf/24